

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 22, 2005, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 15, 17-23, and 29-34 are currently pending this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 17, 18, 20-23, and 29-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 2002-313277 (Yasuo). The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,726 (Evans). The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuo in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,582,702. The applicants respectfully traverse.

Yasuo was filed on December 4, 2001. The present application is a divisional and claims priority to U.S. Pat. No. 6,916,223, which claims priority to Italian Patent App. No. MI200 A 002389 filed November 12, 2001. Since the present application has an earlier priority date than Yasuo, Yasuo is not valid prior art. Accordingly, the applicants have successfully traversed the rejections.

Yasuo being the primary reference, the 103 rejections are also traversed. The applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn for all claims.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that the claims pending in the application patentably define over the prior art. The applicants therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4300.

Respectfully Submitted,
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